

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2009

1. **PRESENT**

Ms S Daley, Mrs P Smith and Mrs H Wright

In attendance as observers: Mrs L Ladds and Mrs B Ward.

Also in attendance: Mrs J Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Mr D McMillan (Head of Quality Improvement), Mr J Rees (Director of Curriculum and Standards) and Tony Flanagan (Curriculum Leader Humanities)

2. **CHAIRMAN 2009-10**

Having been duly nominated Helen Wright was elected as Chair of the Committee for 2009-10.

Mrs Wright in the Chair

3. **2009 AS/A2 RESULTS**

Members received a report from the Director of Curriculum and Standards on the 2009 AS/A2 results. Areas in which the College had achieved improved performance were identified and it was noted that the combined success rate of 82% exceeded the target. The College was continuing to monitor Art, Design and Media and associated subjects and the Committee noted that the replacement 'A' levels which had been brought in in place of underperforming subjects were settling down. Tony Flanagan reported that the area was delighted with the AS levels and it was noted that the average point score and the value added score would benefit from the results. The Committee was advised that the 'A' level success rates for international students was 100% and commended the generally much improved performance. It was agreed that a note should be sent to the programme area thanking staff for their work which had resulted in these improved outcomes.

Mr Flanagan left the meeting at this point.

4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 June 2009 were reviewed and approved.

5. **CHANGES TO THE COMMON INSPECTION FRAMEWORK**

Members received a report from the Head of Quality Improvement identifying changes being introduced to the Common Inspection Framework. The Committee noted that desk based reviews of data were going to take place and that if these were satisfactory there would be no annual monitoring visit for a couple of years and inspection would be on a six year cycle. It was noted that the Framework included an increased emphasis on Equality and Diversity and Safeguarding and it was agreed that guidance on Safeguarding needed to be developed further. The

Committee discussed how Governors would be able to discharge their responsibility for safeguarding. Members were advised that the Teaching and Learning Forum was running projects which would be relevant to the new framework and it was noted that Governors might want to attend Equality and Diversity meetings to satisfy themselves of progress in this area.

6. PROVISIONAL SUCCESS RATES EMPLOYER RESPONSIVE 2008-09

Members received a report from the Head of Quality Improvement on the success rates for 2008-09. The Committee noted that timely success was now the most critical measure and discussions at the Committee focussed on areas where the minimum levels of performance were challenging. This was noted particularly to be the case in Construction, Retail and Commercial and Business and Administration SSAs. The Committee was advised that some rationalisation had taken place over the storage of data and that the quality of information had improved now that most of it was held on one system.

7. TRAINING QUALITY STANDARD

Members received a report from the Head of Employer Engagement on the college's application for assessment under the Training Quality Standard. It was anticipated that a verification visit would take place in mid October 2009.

8. COMMITTEE TARGETS

Members considered the areas of focus which the Committee should propose to the Corporation to be included in its targets for 2009-10, and it was agreed that these should be Equality and Diversity and Safeguarding.

9. INSPECTION OF HE PROVISION (IQER)

Members were advised that an inspection of HE provision was coming up shortly and that the self evaluation work had been completed and submitted. The assessment should take place in November which would allow a report back for the next meeting of the Committee.

10. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 16 November 2009.